

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 02474 291145Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 AID-05 AF-08
OPIC-03 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00
SIL-01 SSC-01 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /089 W
-----291926Z 023033 /46

R 290717Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0736
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2474

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PO
SUBJ: NEW CABINET APPOINTMENTS

REF: (A) LISBON 2420 (DTG 251740Z MAR 77), (B) USDAO
IR 6 879-0134-77, (C) LISBON 2421, (DTG 261344Z MAR 77)

SUMMARY: AT THE MAR 25 INSTALLATION OF NEW CABINET OFFICERS,
PRESIDENT EANES REAFFIRMED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE SOARES GOVERNMENT.
HE WARNED THE OPPOSITION NOT TO "LET OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT
BECOME OPPOSITION TO DEMOCRACY ITSELF," AND URGED THE GOVERNMENT
TO MOVE IN THE LABOR SECTOR. THE SHAPE OF THE NEW CABINET AND
EANES'S WARNING TO THE OPPOSITION ALL REFLECT HIS STEPPED UP
ACTIVITY IN PUSHING THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 02474 291145Z

IN DIRECTIONS HE FAVORS. AT THE SAME TIME, EANES CONTINUES
TO FACE WIDESPREAD GRUMBLING WITHIN THE MILITARY ESTABLISH-
MENT OVER HIS CONTROVERSIAL APPOINTMENT OF LOUREIRO DOS
SANTOS AS NEW VICE CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES GERNERAL
STAFF (REFS B AND C). END SUMMARY

1. PRESIDENT EANES AND PRIME MINISTER SOARES DELIVERED

IMPORTANT SPEECHES AT THE MAR 25 SWEARING IN OF NEW CABINET MEMBERS (REFTEL).

(A) HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS INCLUDED:

-- IMPORTANT ECONOMIC MEASURES: THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN SIGNIFICANT MEASURES IN RECENT WEEKS TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC RECOVERY. SEVERAL IMPORTANT MEASURES MUST STILL BE APPROVED INCLUDING THE DEMARCATION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS AND THE REGULATION OF THE RIGHT TO STRIKE.

-- NEW CREDIT FOR GOVERNMENT: THE GOVERNMENT MERITS A NEW CONSENSUS AND NEW POLITICAL CREDIT TO FACE THE ECONOMIC CRISIS.

-- WARNING TO OPPOSITION: THE LIMITED ALTERNATIVES CALL FOR GREAT CARE ON THE PART OF THE OPPOSITION. "OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT COULD EASILY BECOME OPPOSITION TO DEMOCRACY ITSELF." THE NATION DEMANDS THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION NOT PROMOTE CONDITIONS FAVORABLE TO A DICTATORSHIP OF THE LEFT OR THE RIGHT.

-- URGENT ADJUSTMENT IN LABOR: AN URGENT ADJUSTMENT MUST BE MADE TO ASSURE THE FULL PARTICIPATION OF PORTUGUESE WORKERS IN ECONOMIC RECOVERY. IDEOLOGICAL DISPUTES HAVE NO PLACE IN THE FACTORY.

-- ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS: THE HABITS OF EXCESSIVE CONSUMPTION, THE NEED TO ENGAGE THE MEDIA IN THE PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS, AND THE INEFFICIENT ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED.

-- CONFIDENCE REITERATED: "I REAFFIRM MY CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT FOR THE RENOVATED GOVERNMENT. . ."

(B) HIGHLIGHTS OF SOARES'S REMARKS INCLUDED:

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LISBON 02474 291145Z

-- NO CHANGE IN PROGRAM: THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM REMAINS THE SAME; THE CABINET CHANGES REPRESENT ONLY INTERNAL ADJUSTMENTS.

-- PRESIDENTIAL CONFIDENCE: "THE GOVERNMENT'S SUCCESSFUL PERFORMANCE IN MANY AREAS HAS BEEN POSSIBLE DUE TO THE PERMANENT ENCOURAGEMENT AND CONFIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT, COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ASSEMBLY AND THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE DISCREET BUT EFFICIENT SUPPORT OF THE ARMED FORCES."

-- REFUTES CAPITALIST RECOVERY: TO SAY THAT RECENT ECONOMIC MEASURES PROMOTE "CAPITALIST RECOVERY" IS AN EMPTY IDEOLOGICAL SLOGAN. THE MECHANISMS OF A MARKET ECONOMY REMAIN INTACT AND MUST BE RESPECTED.

-- NO ALTERNATIVE: THERE IS NO VIABLE DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE TO THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM. THE GOVERNMENT WILL ONLY REMAIN IN OFFICE WHILE IT HAS THE CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE PEOPLE AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

2. OPPOSITION REACTIONS: THE PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION PARTIES

REACTED TO THE CABINET CHANGES AS FOLLOWS:

-- PSD SUPPORT: PSD SECRETARY-GENERAL MAGALHAES MOTA TOLD A MEETING OF PARTY FOLLOWERS MAR 26 THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS WISELY SEEKING TO WIDEN ITS BASE OF SUPPORT BY NAMING INDEPENDENTS TO THE CABINET. MOTA SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE CABINET CHANGES WERE NOT SUFFICIENT TO OVERCOME EXISTING DIFFICULTIES.

-- CDS URGES GREATER EFFICIENCY: A CDS ASSEMBLY SPOKESMAN URGED THAT THE GOVERNMENT GO BEYOND CABINET CHANGES TO ADOPT A NEW SPIRIT OF COOPERATION.

-- PCP CONDEMNS SHIFT TO THE RIGHT: PCP PARLIAMENTARY LEADER CARLOS BRITO INTERPRETED THE CABINET CHANGES AS A "SURRENDER TO THE RIGHT."

3. COMMENT: THE SHAPE OF THE NEW CABINET AND EANES'S

WARNING TO THE OPPOSITION ALL REFLECT THE PRESIDENT'S STEPPED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 LISBON 02474 291145Z

UP ACTIVITY IN PUSHING THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION IN DIRECTIONS HE FAVORS. EANES CONTINUES TO WORK CLOSELY WITH SOARES, AND THE TWO LEADERS COOPERATE EFFECTIVELY BUT QUIETLY BEHIND THE SCENES. AT THE SAME TIME, EANES FACES WIDESPREAD GRUMBLING WITHIN THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT OVER HIS CONTROVERSIAL APPOINTMENT OF LOUREIRO DOS SANTOS AS NEW VICE CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF.
CARLUCCI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LISBON02474
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770107-0892
Format: TEL
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770312/aaaaajvz.tel
Line Count: 148
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 47ac01b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LISBON 2420
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2966977
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW CABINET APPOINTMENTS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/47ac01b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009